

ER 1-6385

9 March 1951

Mr. F. N. Jean Gindorff



Dear Mr. Gindorff:

General Smith is away on an extended trip, and Mr. Jackson has therefore asked me to reply to your letter of March 6th, inasmuch as I was General Smith's Aide while he was Commanding General of the First Army and accompanied him to the Squadron A Sixtieth Anniversary Dinner on the evening of 21 April 1949.

As you recall, the General's talk on that occasion was largely extemporaneous, although he had with him a set of prepared notes to which he referred occasionally. I have located these notes and find in them the following two paragraphs which may be useful to Squadron A in their present recruiting program:

"It is a long march from Troop A of 1889 to the 105th Machine Gun Battalion of World War I and the 101st Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of World War II, but the record has been consistent. You are the heirs of a great tradition of service, and participants in a school of leadership."

"the men who have filled your ranks for three generations have always accepted willingly and eagerly their share of the responsibilities of citizens and soldiers, and you are doing the same today. The existence of organizations like Squadron A, and of the many similar, less famous but equally meritorious, organizations of citizen-soldiers, is a continual reassurance to those whose full-time business it is to plan for our country's security. You typify one aspect of the collective responsibility for national defense of the American people, whose confidence and calm judgment is necessary if the power of the United States is to be fully developed for peace and world stability!"

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Whether or not the General actually used these paragraphs in his talk would appear to be immaterial, since he prepared the notes and these two statements therefore reflect his personal opinion of Squadron A.

I think you may also feel perfectly free to use the quotation which you and Judge McCook recall, "From my observations during the war, the men of Squadron A are not only gentlemen, but they meet the highest military requirements any leader in command may expect". These may not have been his exact words, but I do recall that he commented favorably on the war record of the 101st Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

Trusting that this will be of some assistance to you, and with my sincere best wishes for a highly successful recruiting program,

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Lt. Colonel, GSC
Assistant to the Director

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